

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Jim, as a senior at Britton High School, along with a few other seniors, decided to start a dance band in 1937. He had played baritone and base horn in the high school band, but had purchased an alto saxophone a few months before; and,

WHEREAS, For their first job at the Burch Hall, Jim states "we only had eleven orchestrations, so we played the same piece on the first and third number of the dance set;" and,

WHEREAS, A short time later, he joined the Russ Harding Band from Langford--a six piece band. Jim played sax, teamed up with Carmen Holland on sax and Lucy McDermott on piano. This group played small towns in the Britton area; and,

WHEREAS, Jim started his own orchestra--the Jimmie Downie Orchestra--with Carmen Holland and Walt Nelson on saxophones, Lucy McDermott on piano, Clayton Lammers on trumpet, Mick Luikens on trombone, and Phil Morgan on drums; and,

WHEREAS, Jim entered the service in 1941, and was stationed at Camp Polka. There he started the 36th Armored Infantry Dance Band, using his library of dance orchestrations. He played for most functions, as well as visitations to cities in Texas and Louisiana; and,

WHEREAS, In 1950, Jim started another band, along with Carmen Holland, Walt Nelson and Lucy McDermott who is now Mrs. James Downie. This group was called the Wally Nelson Orchestra; and,

WHEREAS, For a few years, Jim was inactive, playing only an occasional dance, using music teachers like Mel Schlatt, Cameron McCurdy, and two sons Jim and Bob, sometimes Chuck Kewing; and,

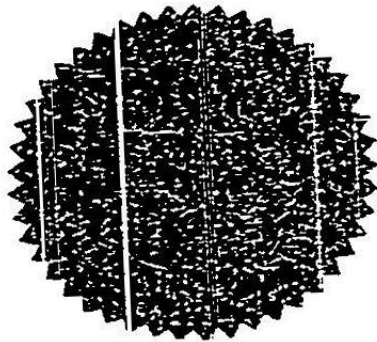
WHEREAS, In 1981, when Walt Nelson and Carmen retired and moved back to the Aberdeen area, Jim, Lucy, Walt and Carmen joined another big band. This one was to be called the Bob Downie Orchestra, with Jim's son, Bob, as trumpet player and also the leader of the group; and,

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Jim Downie has given so much of himself to the Britton area that it is only fitting and proper for this maker of melodies to be rewarded and recognized for his achievements in the musical arts. So powerful and lasting is Jim's influence that the Dakota Musicians Association has chosen Jim Downie as one of the 1990 inductees to the Dakota Musicians Hall of Fame;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 19, 1990, as

JIM DOWNIE DAY

in South Dakota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused to be affixed
the Great Seal of the State of South
Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City,
this Eleventh Day of April, in the
Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and
Ninety


GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE